



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 7271

LCO No. 5379



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL
HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3 (a) The State Board of Education may establish and maintain a state-
4 wide system of technical high schools to be known as the technical
5 high school system. The technical high school system shall be
6 governed by a board that shall consist of [eleven] seventeen members
7 as follows: (1) Four executives of Connecticut-based employers who
8 shall be nominated by the Connecticut Employment and Training
9 Commission established pursuant to section 31-3h, and appointed by
10 the Governor, (2) five members appointed by the State Board of
11 Education, (3) the Commissioner of Economic and Community
12 Development, [and] (4) the Labor Commissioner, and (5) the speaker
13 of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the
14 Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the House of
15 Representatives and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate

16 shall each appoint one member. The Governor shall appoint the
17 chairperson. The chairperson of the technical high school system board
18 shall serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the State Board of
19 Education.

20 (b) The technical high school system board shall offer full-time, part-
21 time and evening programs in vocational, technical and technological
22 education and training. The board may make [regulations] policies
23 controlling the admission of students to any such school. The
24 [Commissioner of Education] superintendent of the technical high
25 school system, in accordance with policies established by the board,
26 may, [appoint] within available resources, hire, without the approval
27 of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and remove
28 members of the staffs of such schools and make rules for the
29 management of and expend the funds provided for the support of such
30 schools. The board may enter into cooperative arrangements with local
31 and regional boards of education, private occupational schools,
32 institutions of higher education, job training agencies and employers in
33 order to provide general education, vocational, technical or
34 technological education or work experience.

35 (c) The board [and the Commissioner of Education] shall [jointly]
36 recommend a candidate for superintendent of the technical high school
37 system who shall be appointed as superintendent by the [State Board
38 of Education] Governor. Such superintendent shall be responsible for
39 the operation and administration of the technical high school system.

40 (d) If the New England Association of Schools and Colleges places a
41 technical high school on probation or otherwise notifies the
42 superintendent of the technical high school system that a technical
43 high school is at risk of losing its accreditation, the [Commissioner of
44 Education] superintendent of the technical high school system, on
45 behalf of the technical high school system board, shall notify the joint
46 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
47 matters relating to education of such placement or problems relating to

48 accreditation.

49 (e) The technical high school system board shall establish specific
50 achievement goals for students at the technical high schools at each
51 grade level. The board shall measure the performance of each technical
52 high school and shall identify a set of quantifiable measures to be used.
53 The measures shall include factors such as the performance of students
54 in grade ten or eleven on the mastery examination, under section 10-
55 14n, trade-related assessment tests, dropout rates and graduation rates.

56 Sec. 2. Section 10-95 of the general statutes, as amended by section 1
57 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
58 (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

59 (a) [The State Board of Education may establish and maintain a
60 state-wide system of technical high schools to be known as the
61 technical high school system.] There is established a state-wide system
62 of technical high schools to be known as the Technical High School
63 System. The system shall offer full-time, part-time and evening
64 programs in vocational, technical and technological education and
65 training. The [technical high school] system shall be governed by [a
66 board] the Technical High School System Board that shall consist of
67 seventeen members as follows: (1) Four executives of Connecticut-
68 based employers who shall be nominated by the Connecticut
69 Employment and Training Commission established pursuant to
70 section 31-3h, and appointed by the Governor, (2) five members
71 appointed by the State Board of Education, (3) the Commissioner of
72 Economic and Community Development, (4) the Labor Commissioner,
73 and (5) the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro
74 tempore of the Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the House
75 of Representatives and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate
76 shall each appoint one member. The Governor shall appoint the
77 chairperson. The chairperson of the [technical high school system
78 board] Technical High School System Board shall serve as a nonvoting
79 ex-officio member of the State Board of Education.

80 [(b) The technical high school system board shall offer full-time,
81 part-time and evening programs in vocational, technical and
82 technological education and training. The board may make policies
83 controlling the admission of students to any such school. The
84 superintendent of the technical high school system, in accordance with
85 policies established by the board, may, within available resources, hire,
86 without the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
87 Management, and remove members of the staffs of such schools and
88 make rules for the management of and expend the funds provided for
89 the support of such schools.] (b) The Technical High School System
90 Board shall organize the Technical High School System into such
91 bureaus, divisions and other units as may be necessary for the efficient
92 conduct of the business of the system, and may, from time to time,
93 create, abolish, transfer or consolidate within the system any bureau,
94 division or other unit as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of
95 the business of the board. The board may create any advisory boards
96 or appoint any committees as it deems necessary for the efficient
97 conduct of the business of the system. The board may appoint, and
98 may prescribe the duties of any subordinates, agents and employees as
99 it finds necessary in the conduct of its business. The board may enter
100 into cooperative arrangements with local and regional boards of
101 education, private occupational schools, institutions of higher
102 education, job training agencies and employers in order to provide
103 general education, vocational, technical or technological education or
104 work experience. The board may accept gifts, grants and donations on
105 behalf of the system, including, but not limited to, in-kind donations,
106 designated for the purchase of equipment or materials, the hiring of
107 teachers at a technical high school or the acquisition of real property
108 and construction of facilities.

109 (c) The board shall recommend a candidate for [superintendent of
110 the technical high school system] Superintendent of the Technical High
111 School System who shall be appointed as superintendent by the
112 Governor, in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-7,

113 inclusive. The superintendent shall serve a term of four years to be
114 coterminous with the term of the Governor. [Such] The superintendent
115 shall be the administrative officer of the system and shall be
116 responsible for the operation and administration of the technical high
117 school system in accordance with the policies established by the board,
118 and may, within available resources, hire, without the approval of the
119 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and terminate the
120 employment of members of the staffs of technical high schools and
121 make rules for the management of and expend the funds provided for
122 the support of the system and technical high schools. The
123 superintendent shall serve as secretary to the board and the
124 superintendent may appoint assistant superintendents, provided
125 neither of them shall be members of the board. The superintendent
126 shall record all acts of the board and certify the same to all concerned
127 and shall be the custodian of its records and papers; shall prepare such
128 routine business for presentation to said board as may be necessary or
129 advisable; shall compile and publish, under the direction of the board,
130 all policies and acts which may be required and shall perform such
131 duties as the board prescribes.

132 (d) If the New England Association of Schools and Colleges places a
133 technical high school on probation or otherwise notifies the
134 superintendent [of the technical high school system] that a technical
135 high school is at risk of losing its accreditation, the superintendent, [of
136 the technical high school system,] on behalf of the [technical high
137 school system] board, shall notify the joint standing committee of the
138 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
139 of such placement or problems relating to accreditation.

140 (e) The board may make policies controlling the admission of
141 students to any technical high school. The [technical high school
142 system] board shall establish specific achievement goals for students at
143 the technical high schools at each grade level. The board shall measure
144 the performance of each technical high school and shall identify a set
145 of quantifiable measures to be used. The measures shall include factors

146 such as the performance of students in grade ten or eleven on the
147 mastery examination, under section 10-14n, trade-related assessment
148 tests, dropout rates and graduation rates.

149 Sec. 3. Section 10-99f of the general statutes is repealed and the
150 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

151 (a) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2011, [and each fiscal
152 year thereafter,] to June 30, 2019, inclusive, the budget for the technical
153 high school system shall be a separate budgeted agency from the
154 Department of Education.

155 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
156 Governor shall not reduce allotment requisitions or allotments in force
157 concerning the technical high school system.

158 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) For the fiscal year ending
159 June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, the budget for the
160 Technical High School System shall be a separate budgeted agency
161 with a single account.

162 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
163 appropriations recommended for the Technical High School System
164 shall be the estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the
165 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management by the Technical
166 High School System Board and the recommended adjustments and
167 revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and
168 revisions, if any, transmitted by said board to the Office of Policy and
169 Management.

170 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
171 Governor shall not reduce allotment requisitions or allotments in force
172 concerning the Technical High School System.

173 Sec. 5. Section 10-99g of the general statutes is repealed and the
174 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

175 (a) (1) [Each] For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal
176 year thereafter, each technical high school shall prepare a proposed
177 operating budget for the next succeeding school year beginning July
178 first and submit such proposed operating budget to the
179 [superintendent of the technical high school system] Technical High
180 School System Board. Such proposed operating budget shall include a
181 statement of the staffing needs for such technical high school. The
182 [superintendent] board may consult with the superintendent and shall
183 collect, review and use the proposed operating budget for each
184 technical high school to guide the preparation of [a proposed
185 operating] the budget for the [technical high school system] Technical
186 High School System.

187 (2) [The superintendent of the technical high school system shall
188 submit a proposed operating budget for the technical high school
189 system to the technical high school system board. Such proposed
190 operating budget shall include a statement of the staffing needs for the
191 technical high school system.] The board shall [review, amend and
192 approve such proposed operating budget and] submit the [approved]
193 budget to [the State Board of Education. The state board shall review,
194 but shall not amend, and submit such approved operating budget,
195 with any comments or recommendations for revisions, to the Secretary
196 of] the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with the
197 provisions of section 4-77. The [superintendent] board shall submit a
198 copy of (A) [the proposed operating budgets] an itemized operating
199 budget for each technical high school, including the statement of the
200 staffing needs for each technical high school, and (B) the [proposed
201 operating] budget for the [technical high school] system, including the
202 statement of the staffing needs for the [technical high school system ,
203 and (C) the approved operating budget for the technical high school]
204 system to the [Office of Policy and Management and the] joint
205 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
206 matters relating to education and appropriations and the budgets of
207 state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. [The

208 superintendent shall communicate directly with the Secretary of the
209 Office of Policy and Management regarding the creation or filling of
210 staff positions included in the approved operating budget for the
211 technical high school system.]

212 (b) The [superintendent of the technical high school system] board
213 shall semiannually submit the operating budget and expenses for each
214 individual technical high school, in accordance with section 11-4a, to
215 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the director of
216 the legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis and to the joint standing
217 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
218 relating to education.

219 (c) The superintendent [of the technical high school system] shall
220 make available and update on the [technical high school system]
221 Technical High School System web site and the web site of each
222 technical high school the operating budget for the current school year
223 of each individual technical high school.

224 Sec. 6. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-95h of the
225 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
226 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

227 (2) The superintendent of the technical high school system shall
228 submit the following to the joint standing committees of the General
229 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, higher
230 education and employment advancement and labor: (A) Information
231 ensuring that the curriculum of the technical high school system is
232 incorporating those workforce skills that will be needed for the next
233 thirty years, as identified by the Labor Commissioner in subdivision
234 (1) of this subsection, into the technical high schools; (B) information
235 regarding the employment status of students who graduate from or
236 complete an approved program of study at the technical high school
237 system, including, but not limited to: (i) Demographics such as age and
238 gender, (ii) course and program enrollment and completion, (iii)

239 employment status, and (iv) wages prior to enrolling and after
240 graduating; (C) an assessment of the adequacy of the resources
241 available to the technical high school system as the system develops
242 and refines programs to meet existing and emerging workforce needs;
243 (D) recommendations to the technical high school system board to
244 carry out the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this
245 subdivision; [and] (E) information regarding staffing at each technical
246 high school for the current academic year; and (F) information
247 regarding the transition process of the technical high school system as
248 an independent agency, including, but not limited to, the actions taken
249 by the technical high school system board and the superintendent to
250 create a budget process and maintain programmatic consistency for
251 students enrolled in the technical high school system. The
252 superintendent of the technical high school system shall collaborate
253 with the Labor Commissioner to obtain information as needed to carry
254 out the provisions of this subsection.

255 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) The superintendent of the
256 technical high school system shall consult with any local or regional
257 boards of education for a town in which a technical high school is
258 located and that offers any career and technical education programs,
259 for the purpose of reducing redundancies and consolidating
260 programmatic offerings.

261 Sec. 8. Section 4-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the
262 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

263 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"
264 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
265 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner on Aging,
266 Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner,
267 Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer
268 Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic
269 and Community Development, State Board of Education,
270 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,

271 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
 272 Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health,
 273 Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of
 274 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social
 275 Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of
 276 Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of
 277 Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner of
 278 Rehabilitation Services, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, [and]
 279 the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs and the
 280 Technical High School System Board. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7,
 281 "department head" also means the Commissioner of Education and the
 282 Superintendent of the Technical High School System.

283 Sec. 9. Section 4-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the
 284 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

285 There shall be within the executive branch of state government the
 286 following departments: Office of Policy and Management, Department
 287 of Administrative Services, Department on Aging, Department of
 288 Revenue Services, Department of Banking, Department of Agriculture,
 289 Department of Children and Families, Department of Consumer
 290 Protection, Department of Correction, Department of Economic and
 291 Community Development, State Board of Education, Department of
 292 Emergency Services and Public Protection, Department of Energy and
 293 Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Board of
 294 Regents for Higher Education, Insurance Department, Labor
 295 Department, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
 296 Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services,
 297 Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, [and]
 298 Department of Veterans Affairs and the Technical High School System.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-95
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-95

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-95
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-95

Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-99f
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-99g
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-95h(b)(2)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	4-5
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	4-38c

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Technical High School System as an independent state agency.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]